MARVEL

002

SOULE
CAMUNCOLI
SMITH
CURIEL

STAR WARS™ DARTH VADER

THE CHOSEN ONE

Part II

The Clone Wars are over. The Jedi are defeated. Palpatine has become Emperor, finally in position to bend the galaxy to his will through the power of the Sith.

Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker has fallen to the dark side of the Force. Swayed by Palpatine's promise to help prevent the death of his pregnant wife Padmé , Skywalker betrayed the Jedi and became the Sith Lord Darth Vader. His wife died nonetheless.

Palpatine has ordered Vader to locate a surviving Jedi, take their lightsaber, and corrupt the kyber crystal within. But finding a Jedi won't be easy as the Sith Lords have purged their kind from the galaxy....

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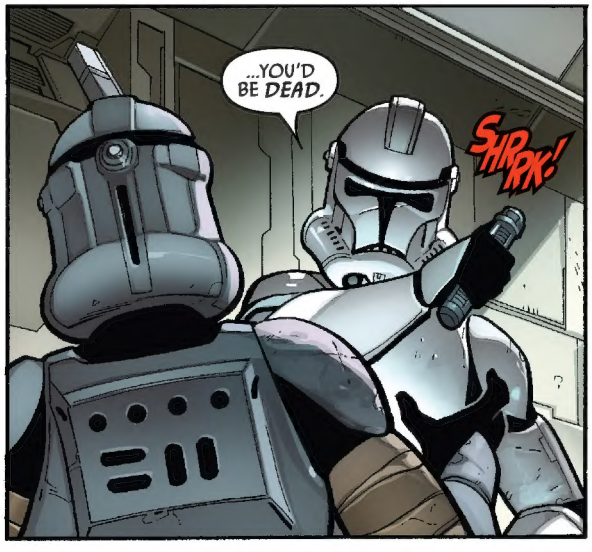
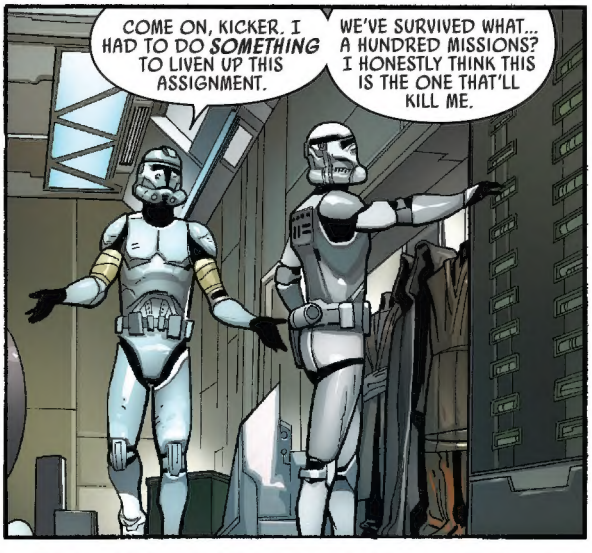
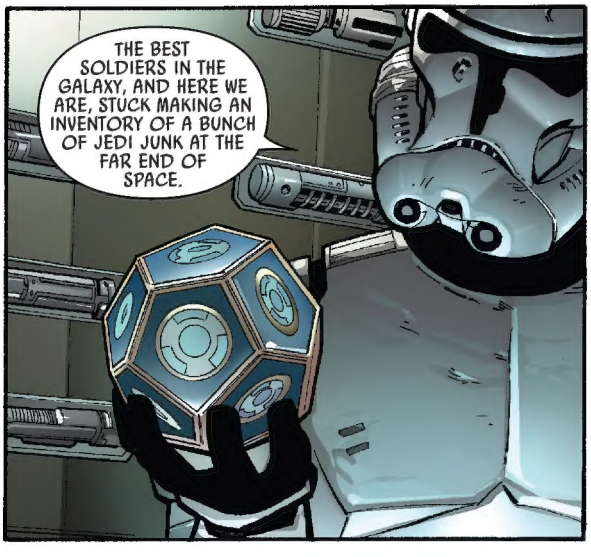
Mid-Rim Jedi Outpost. Designation: *Brighthome.*
"HEY, LOOK AT ME..."
...I'M A JEDI.

NO, YOU'RE NOT, DING. IF YOU WERE A JEDI...

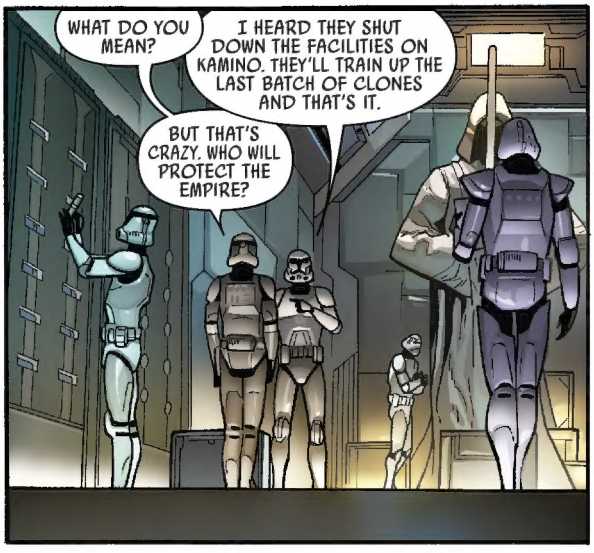

...YOU'D BE DEAD.
SHRRK!

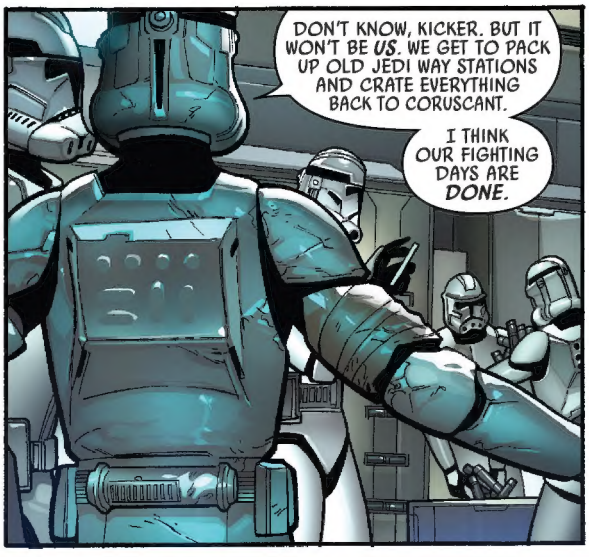

COME ON, KICKER. I HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO LIVEN UP THIS ASSIGNMENT.
WE'VE SURVIVED WHAT... A HUNDRED MISSIONS? I HONESTLY THINK THIS IS THE ONE THAT'LL KILL ME.


THE BEST SOLDIERS IN THE GALAXY, AND HERE WE ARE, STUCK MAKING AN INVENTORY OF A BUNCH OF JEDI JUNK AT THE FAR END OF SPACE.

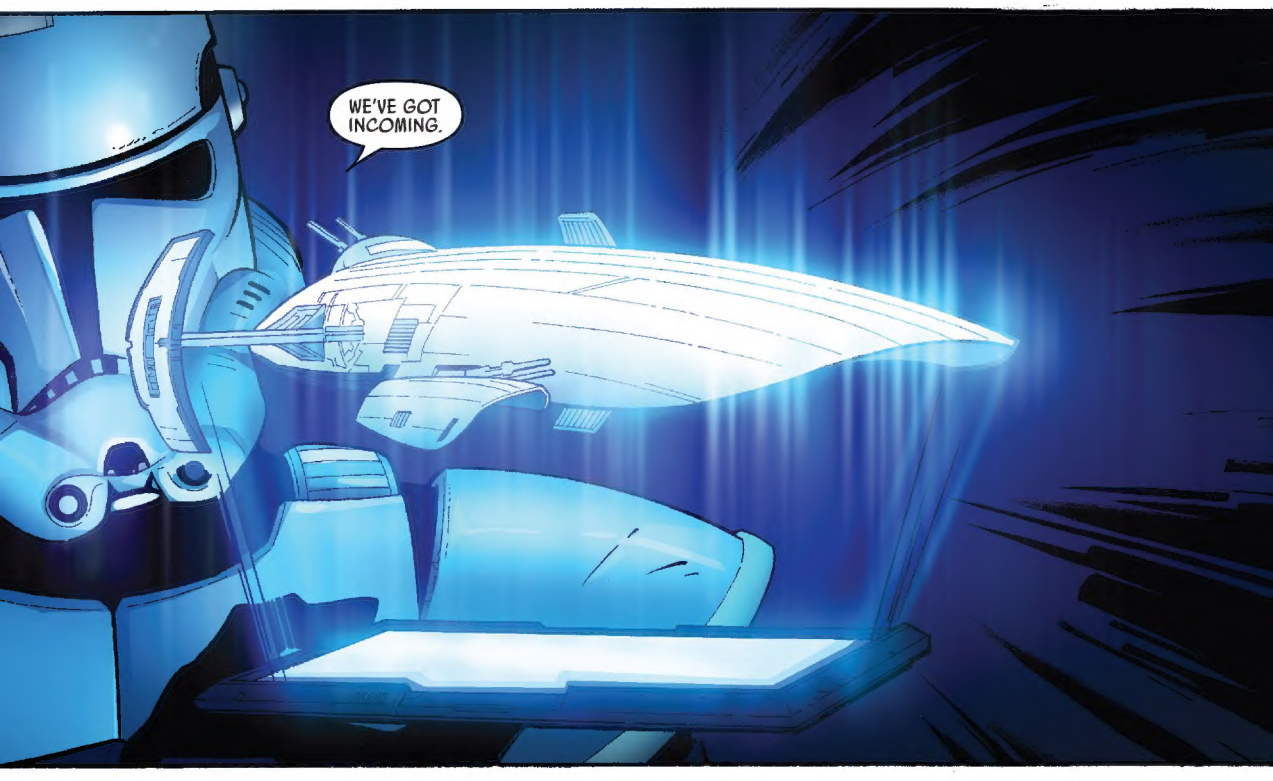
WHAT A WASTE.

TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY. EVERY MISSION IS IMPORTANT.
IF EMPEROR PALPATINE WANTS THIS DONE, THEN WE GET IT DONE. WE BEAT THE SEPARATISTS--GREAT. YOU THINK THEY'RE THE ONLY ENEMIES OUT THERE?
NO. I JUST DON'T THINK WE'LL BE THE ONES FIGHTING THEM.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I HEARD THEY SHUT DOWN THE FACILITIES ON KAMINO. THEY'LL TRAIN UP THE LAST BATCH OF CLONES AND THAT'S IT.
BUT THAT'S CRAZY. WHO WILL PROTECT THE EMPIRE?


DON'T KNOW, KICKER. BUT IT WON'T BE *US*. WE GET TO PACK UP OLD JEDI WAY STATIONS AND CRATE EVERYTHING BACK TO CORUSCANT.
I THINK OUR FIGHTING DAYS ARE *DONE*.

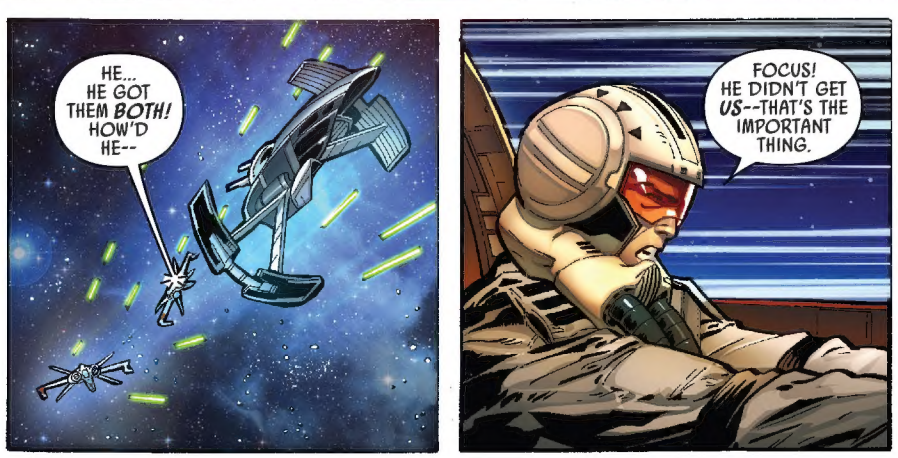
YOU TWO--*FOCUS*.

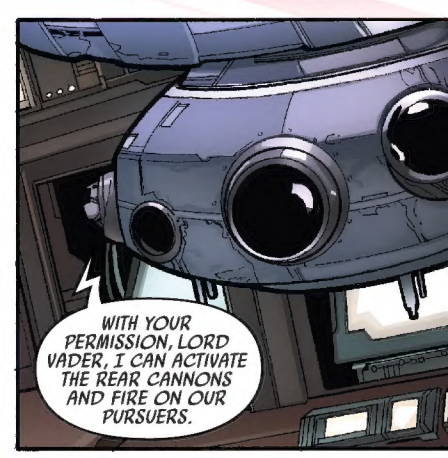

WE'VE GOT INCOMING.

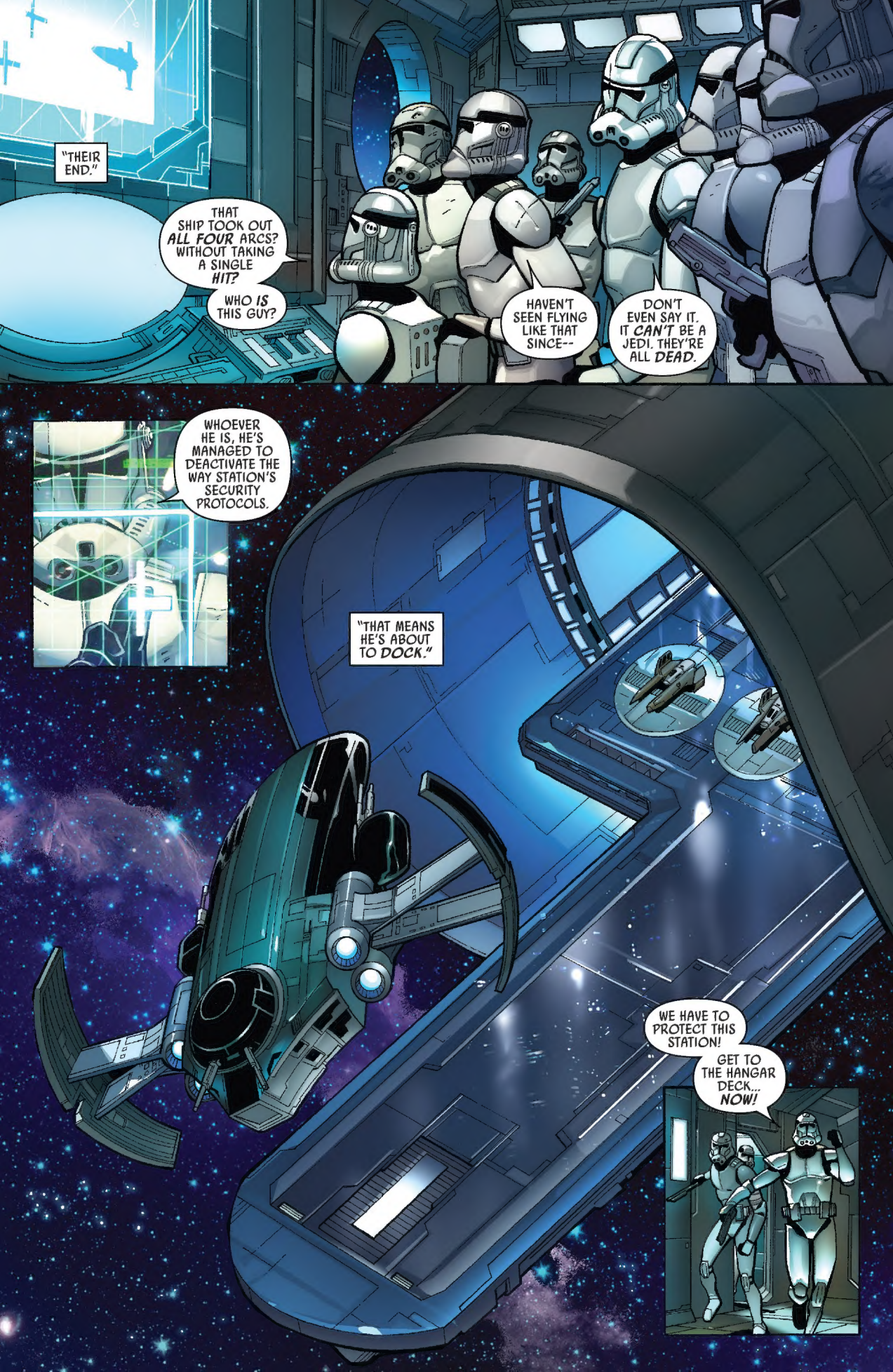
UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL...THIS IS RESTRICTED SPACE.
YOUR PRESENCE IS UNAUTHORIZED. CHANGE COURSE IMMEDIATELY OR YOU WILL BE FIRED UPON.
I HAVE THE DOCKING CODES FOR THIS STATION, LORD VADER. I CAN TRANSMIT THEM ON YOUR ORDER.
THERE WILL BE NO SECOND WARNING.

LORD VADER?
THAT SHIP'S STILL COMING. ALL RIGHT, WE GAVE THIS GUY A CHANCE.
LIGHT IT UP.
ROGER THAT.
I AM DETECTING THAT THE ARC FIGHTERS HAVE ENGAGED WEAPONS TRACKING SYSTEMS.
MASTER, WITH YOUR PERMISSION I CAN TRANSMIT OUR AUTHORIZATION CODE AND END THIS SITUATION IMMEDIATELY.
NO.
ACTIVATE WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OURSELVES A FIGHT, BOYS.
ABOUT TIME.
AGREED. LET'S SHOW 'EM WHAT WE'RE MADE O--



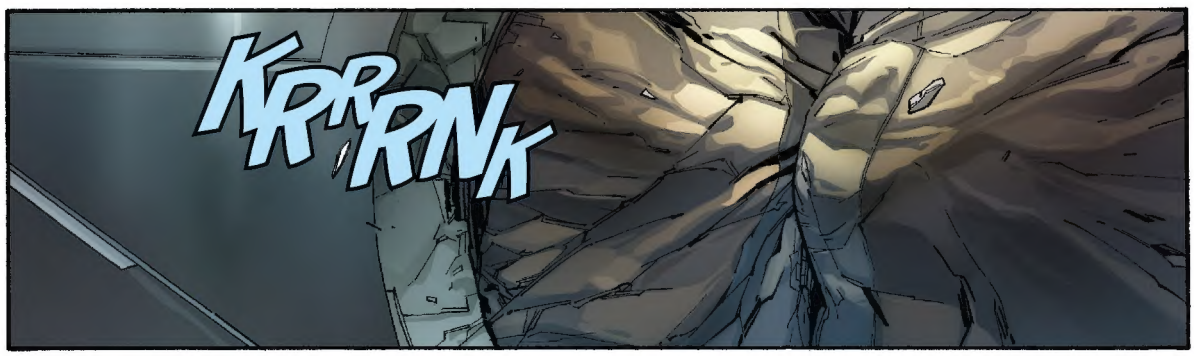


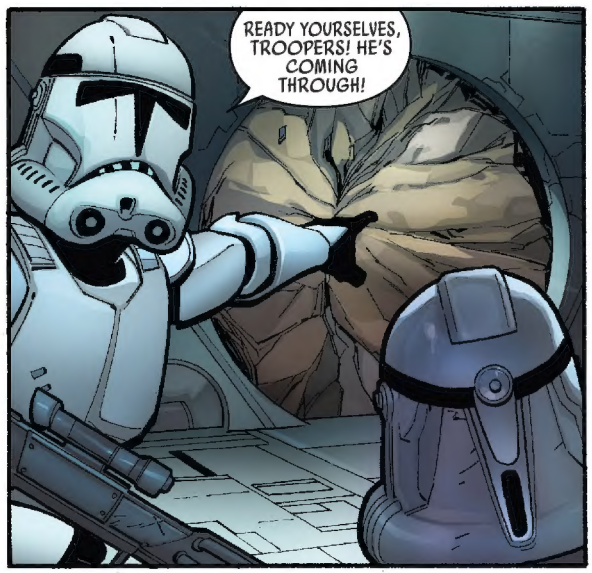

"THEIR END."
THAT SHIP TOOK OUT ALL FOUR ARCS? WITHOUT TAKING A SINGLE HIT?
WHO IS THIS GUY?
HAVEN'T SEEN FLYING LIKE THAT SINCE--
DON'T EVEN SAY IT. IT CAN'T BE A JEDI. THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S MANAGED TO DEACTIVATE THE WAY STATION'S SECURITY PROTOCOLS.
"THAT MEANS HE'S ABOUT TO DOCK."
WE HAVE TO PROTECT THIS STATION!
GET TO THE HANGAR DECK... NOW!

YOU HAPPY NOW, DING? LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND THAT FIGHT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR.
BETTER THAN COUNTING ROBES.

MAYBE THIS IS AN *OPPORTUNITY*, KICKER. WE KNOW THE EMPIRE WANTS THIS STUFF, OR WE WOULDN'T BE ON THIS MISSION IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IF WE CAN *PROTECT* IT, PROVE OUR *WORTH*, MAYBE WORD GETS BACK TO THE EMPEROR. MAYBE HE KEEPS US *AROUND*.

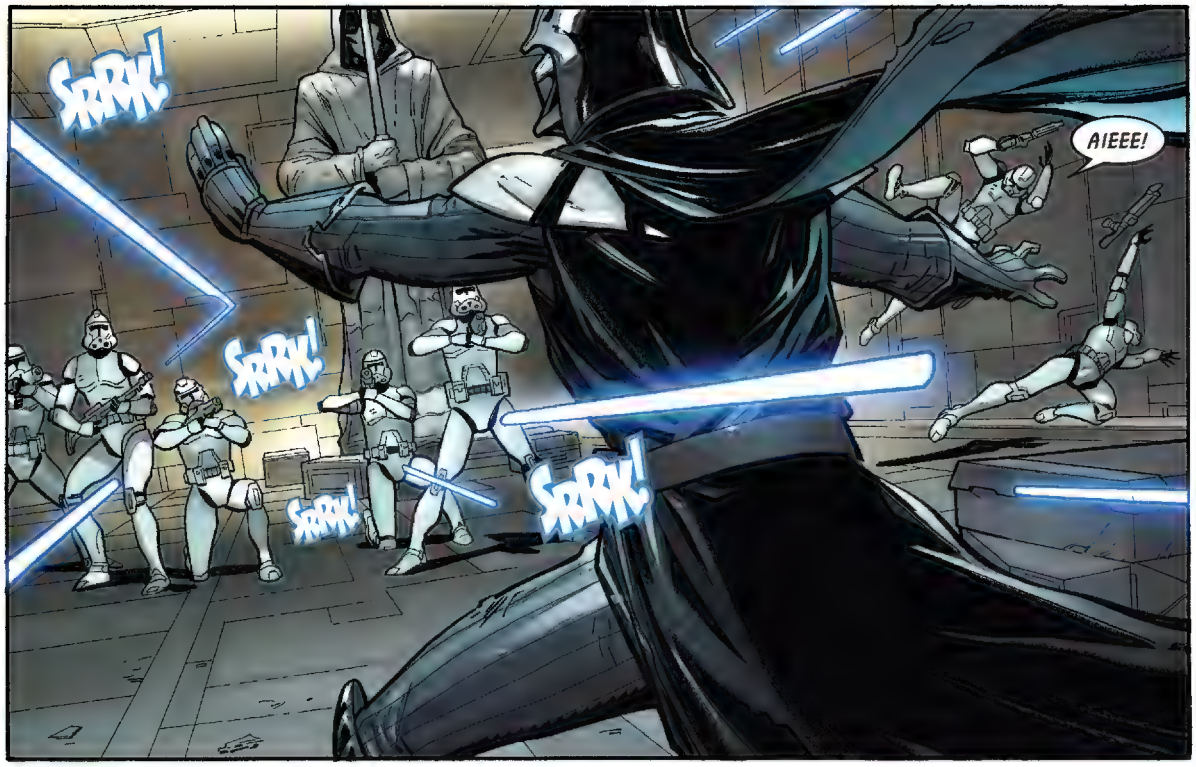
MAYBE WE GET TO PUT ON THOSE RED HELMETS, STAND RIGHT NEXT TO PALPATINE *HIMSELF*.


KRR RNK

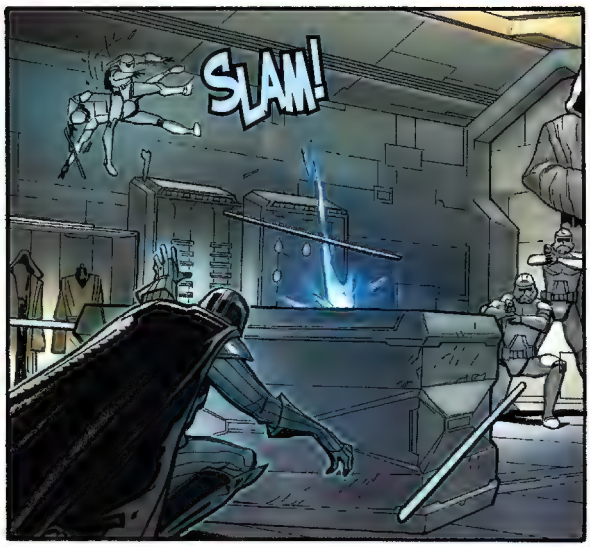

READY YOURSELVES, TROOPERS! HE'S COMING THROUGH!

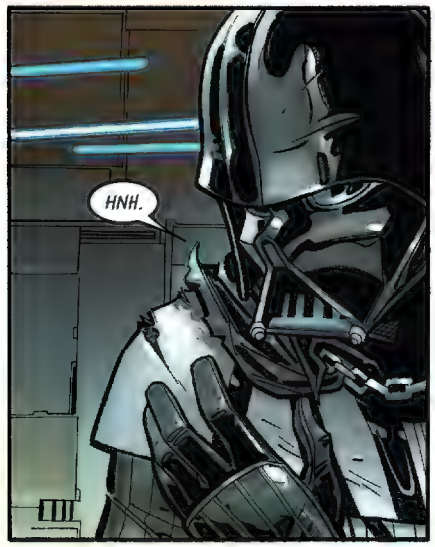
DING, I GET IT. BIG OPPORTUNITY HERE, MAYBE.
BUT ONLY IF WE *SURVIVE*.

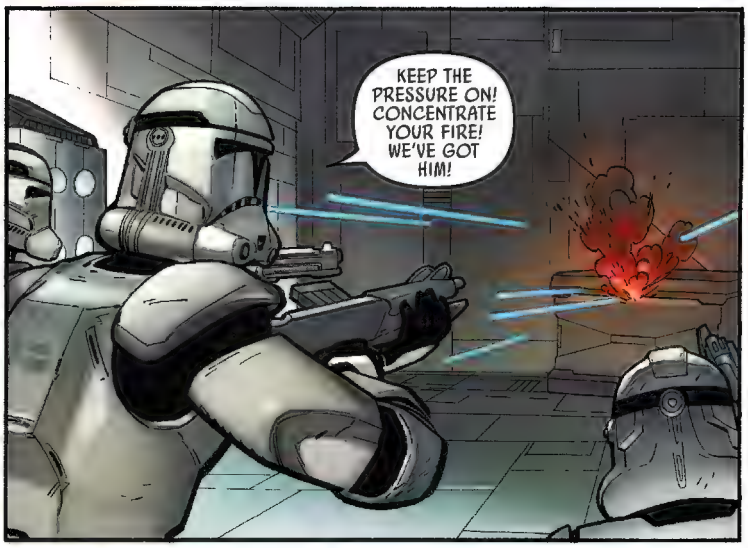
SWEEP
TAKE HIM DOWN!


SRRK!
SRRK!
SRRK!
SRRK!
AIEEE!

GAH!
SZZZK!


SLAM!


HNH.


KEEP THE PRESSURE ON! CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE! WE'VE GOT HIM!

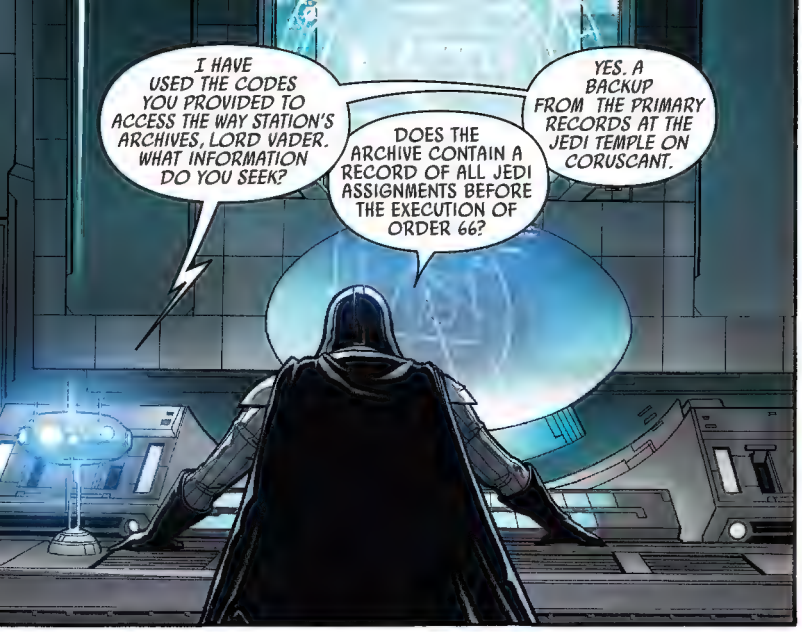
WHAT IN ALL THE BLASTED--
SMSSH!

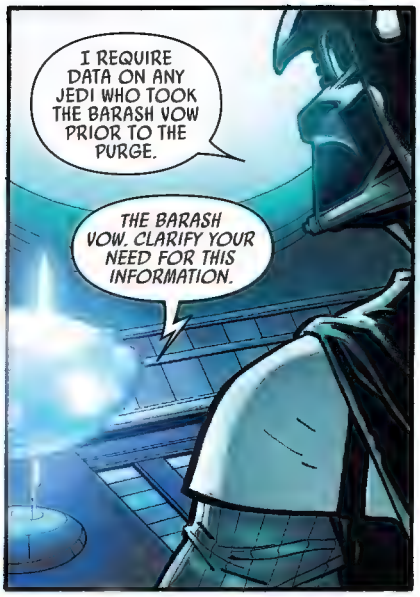
THWP!

OKAY. THAT'S DEFINITELY A JEDI.
BUT ORDER 66... I THOUGHT WE KILLED THEM ALL.
SAY IT A LITTLE LOUDER, DING. HE MIGHT NOT HAVE HEARD YOU.

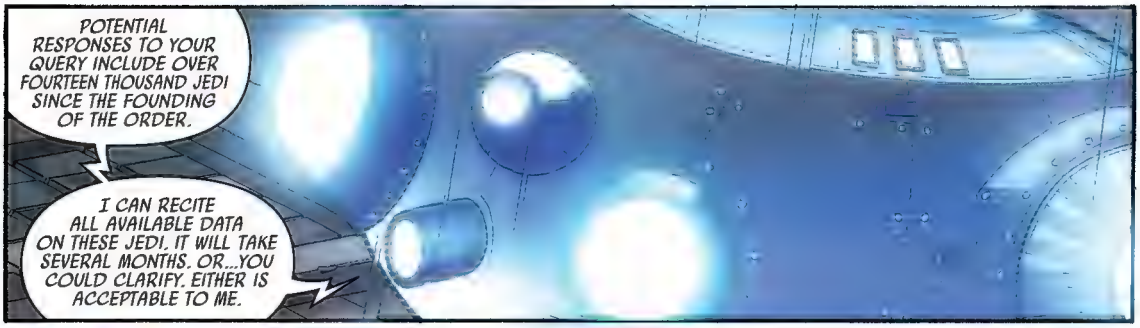
SHKK!
SHKK!
GOOD.
NNNGH!
FALL BACK! REGROUP ON DECK--
YEEEARGH!
MOVE! MOVE!

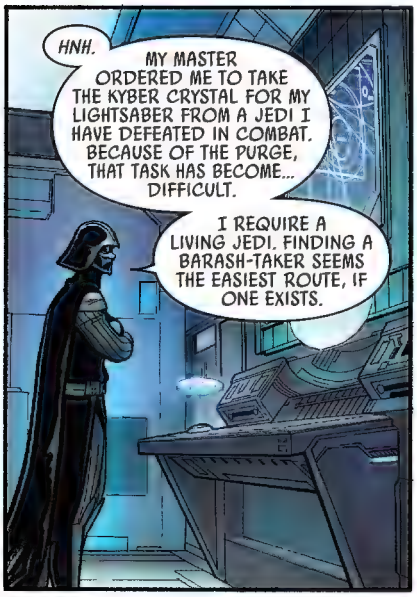
SHRK!
CLNK!


I HAVE USED THE CODES YOU PROVIDED TO ACCESS THE WAY STATION'S ARCHIVES, LORD VADER. WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU SEEK?
DOES THE ARCHIVE CONTAIN A RECORD OF ALL JEDI ASSIGNMENTS BEFORE THE EXECUTION OF ORDER 66?
YES. A BACKUP FROM THE PRIMARY RECORDS AT THE JEDI TEMPLE ON CORUSCANT.

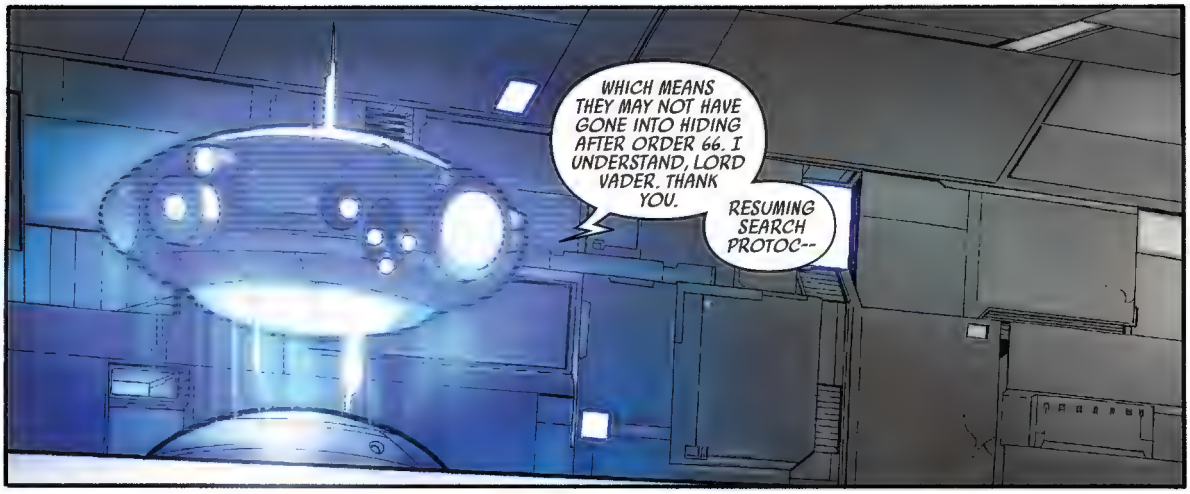

I REQUIRE DATA ON ANY JEDI WHO TOOK THE BARASH VOW PRIOR TO THE PURGE.
THE BARASH VOW. CLARIFY YOUR NEED FOR THIS INFORMATION.

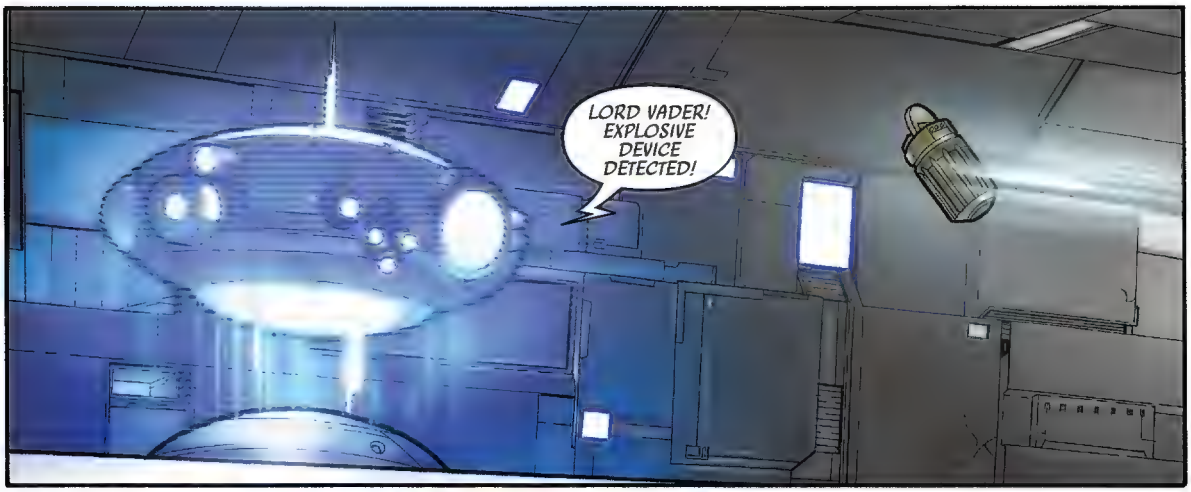
I DO NOT EXPECT TO BE QUESTIONED. I EXPECT TO BE OBEYED.
AS LONG AS I SERVE YOU, I WILL DO BOTH--IF I ASK A QUESTION IT IS BECAUSE I BELIEVE THE ANSWER WILL ENHANCE MY SERVICE.

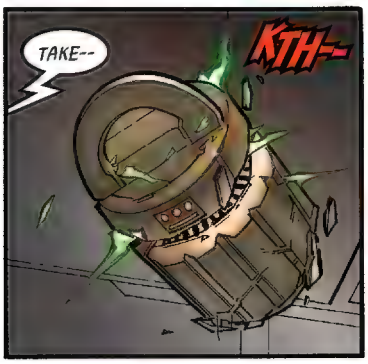

POTENTIAL RESPONSES TO YOUR QUERY INCLUDE OVER FOURTEEN THOUSAND JEDI SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE ORDER.
I CAN RECITE ALL AVAILABLE DATA ON THESE JEDI. IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS. OR...YOU COULD CLARIFY. EITHER IS ACCEPTABLE TO ME.

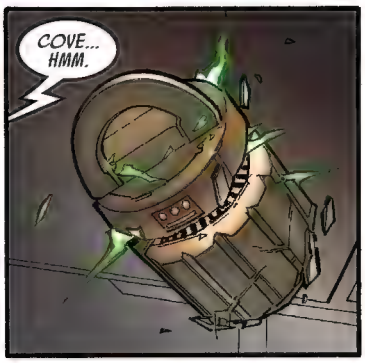

HNH.
MY MASTER ORDERED ME TO TAKE THE KYBER CRYSTAL FOR MY LIGHTSABER FROM A JEDI I HAVE DEFEATED IN COMBAT. BECAUSE OF THE PURGE, THAT TASK HAS BECOME... DIFFICULT.
I REQUIRE A LIVING JEDI. FINDING A BARASH-TAKER SEEMS THE EASIEST ROUTE, IF ONE EXISTS.

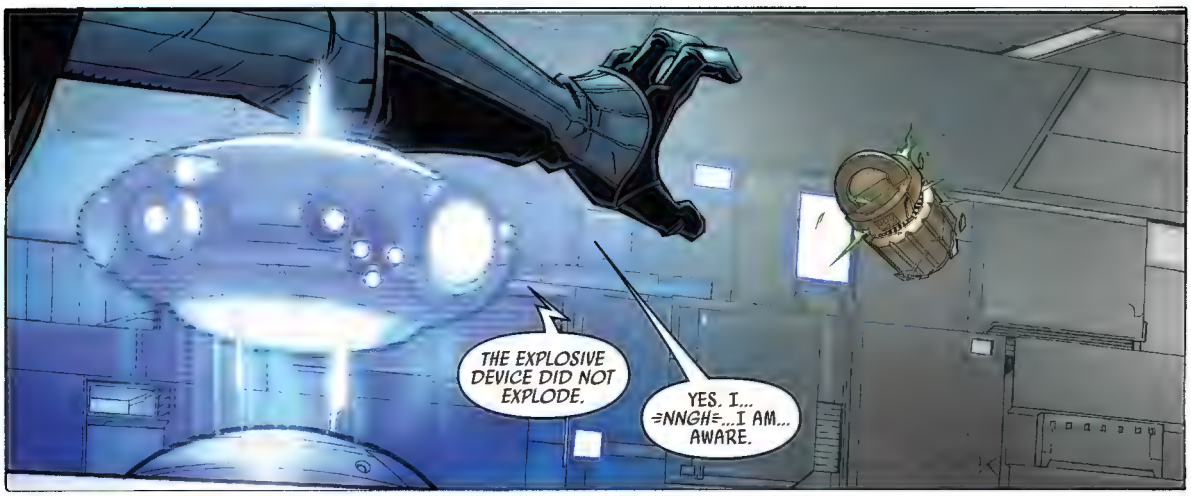
ANY JEDI PURSUING BARASH HAS SWORN TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ORDER. COMPLETE DISENGAGEMENT FROM ANYTHING BUT THE FORCE.
IT IS A TYPE OF PENANCE.
WHILE A BARASH-TAKER WOULD HAVE FELT THE PURGE, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO RESPOND TO IT, OR TAKE ACTION OF ANY KIND.


WHICH MEANS THEY MAY NOT HAVE GONE INTO HIDING AFTER ORDER 66. I UNDERSTAND, LORD VADER. THANK YOU.
RESUMING SEARCH PROTOC--

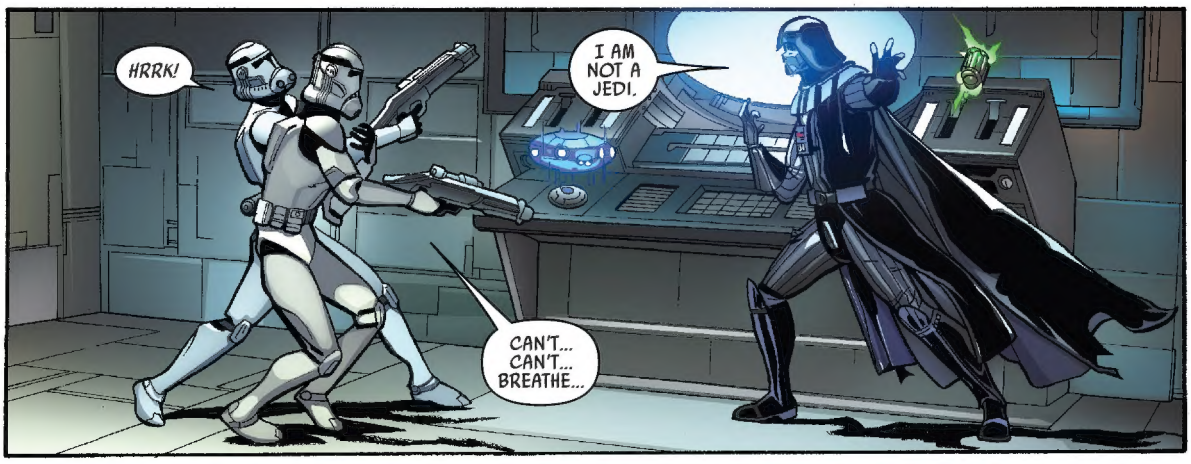

LORD VADER! EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTED!

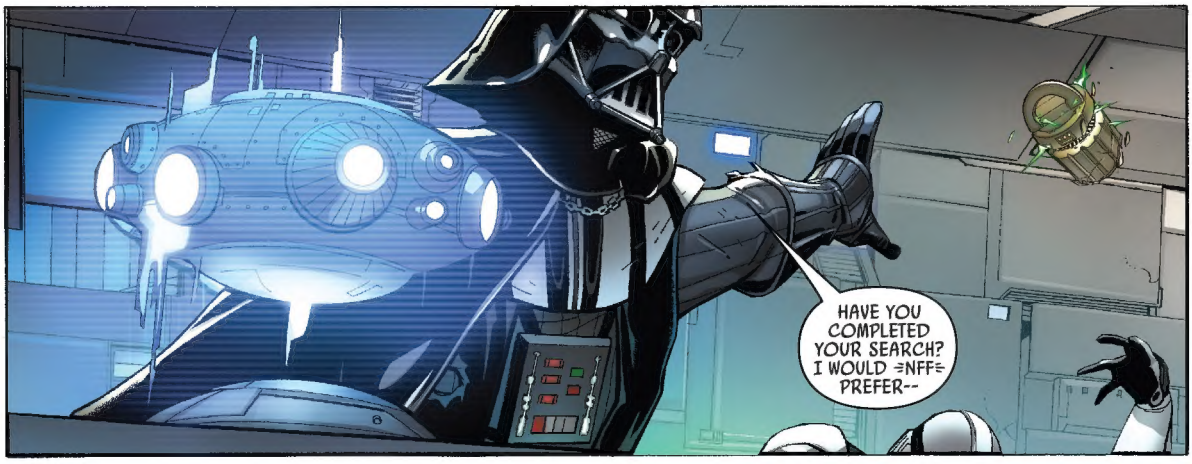
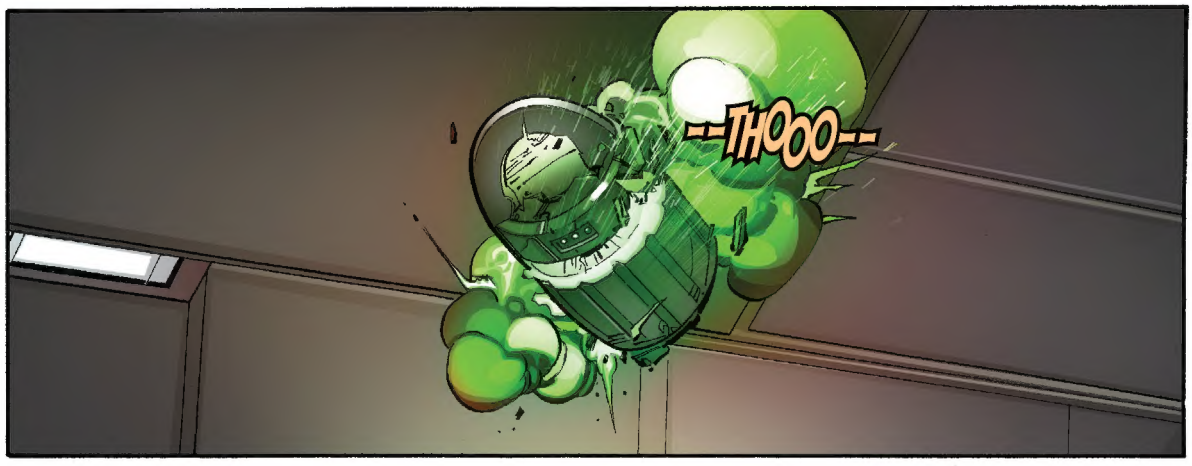

TAKE--
KTH--


COVE... HMM.


THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DID NOT EXPLODE.
YES. I... =NNGH=...I AM... AWARE.

GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES. YOU'RE COMING WITH US.
COMING WITH US? JUST SHOOT HIM, DING!
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA. WE KNOW WHAT JEDI ARE CAPABLE OF. THEY'RE POWERFUL, BUT THEY HAVE LIMITS.
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN DO ANYTHING TO US WHILE HE'S KEEPING THAT GRENADE FROM EXPLODING.
WE'LL GET HIM IN RESTRAINTS, AND THEN HE'S OURS.
AND THEN WHAT?
AND THEN WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO THE EMPEROR--OFFER HIM UP LIKE A PRIZE.
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL GIVE US IF WE BRING HIM A JEDI TRAITOR? NO MORE RETIREMENT. RED HELMETS FOR SURE.
TROOPERS. YOU HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.
OH YEAH? WHAT'S THAT?


HRRK!
I AM NOT A JEDI.
CAN'T... CAN'T... BREATHE...

KRRCK!
I HAVE NO LIMITS.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SEARCH? I WOULD =NFF= PREFER--

--THOOO--

I WOULD PREFER THAT THIS PHASE OF THE OPERATION BE COMPLETED... QUICKLY.
I HAVE IT, MASTER. SEARCH COMPLETE.
WHO?
IT IS UNLIKELY YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED HIM BEFORE.
HE HAS BEEN ON HIS PILGRIMAGE SINCE BEFORE YOU ENTERED THE JEDI TEMPLE.
WHO?
KTHOOOOOM!
"HE IS UNIQUE, EVEN FOR A JEDI. HIS NAME IS KIRAK INFIL'A. IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN JEDI AFFAIRS.
"BUT THE RECORDS SHOW THAT EVEN WHEN HE WAS, HE DID NOT TAKE PART IN DIPLOMACY, TRAINING OR RESEARCH."
APPARENTLY, MASTER INFIL'A HAD PRECISELY ONE PURPOSE WITHIN THE ORDER.

"TO FIGHT."

DARTH VADER
NEXT ISSUE: